

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05  
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02  
OMB-01 DOE-15 JUSE-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10  
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R 261749Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8077  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 14550

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTUREELECTRONICALLY  
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD  
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, EEC  
SUBJ: EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, JULY 24-25,  
1978

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 9192; (B) BRUSSELS 12362

1. SUMMARY. THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS,  
DURING ITS "PRE-HOLIDAY" SESSION OF JULY 24-25, DISCUSSED  
PRIMARILY FISHERIES MATTERS (SEPTTEL) AND BRIEFLY TOUCHED  
ON SEVERAL OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL ISSUES, WITHOUT MAKING  
ANY MAJOR DECISIONS. THE COUNCIL'S ONLY DECISION WAS TO  
PARTIALLY LIFT EC'S IMPORT RESTRICTION ON BOTSWANA BEEF.  
GERMAN MINISTER ERTL, CHAIRING HIS FIRST MEETING, OUTLINED  
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PROGRAM OF WORK HE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH IN NEXT SIX MONTHS  
WHICH INCLUDES COMPLETION OF (1) MEDITERRANEAN REFORM  
PACKAGE; (2) EC/GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRI-  
CULTURE; (3) CAP'S ON SHEEPMEEAT, POTATOES, AND ALCOHOL,  
AS WELL AS FISHERIES POLICIES; AND (4) OUTSTANDING ISSUES  
IN THE WINE AND DAIRY SECTORS. DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED AN  
INCREASE IN IMPORT QUOTA OF YOUNG BOVINE ANIMALS FOR

FATTENING, STATUS REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES, STRUCTURAL MEASURES IN WINE SECTOR, AND OVERALL REVIEW OF SITUATION IN DAIRY SECTOR. THE FRENCH REGISTERED CONCERN RE NEGOTIATION OF AGRICULTURE IN MTN'S, STRESSING THAT OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT RESULT IN DISTORTION OF OPERATION OF CAP. THE NEXT AGRICULTURE COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1978. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS HELD ITS FIRST MEETING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF GERMAN MINISTER ERTL ON JULY 24-25. THE MINISTERS SPENT THE FIRST DAY AND THE MORNING OF THE SECOND DAY DISCUSSING FISHERIES MATTERS (SEPTEL), AND DISCUSSED AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FOR THREE HOURS THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 25. MINISTER ERTL OUTLINED THE PROGRAM OF WORK HE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH DURING HIS CHAIRMANSHIP. HIS PRIORITIES INCLUDE DECISIONS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES RESULTING FROM THE PRICE-FIXING MARATHON (REF A) -- COMPLETION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REFORM PACKAGE, A REVIEW OF THE DAIRY SECTOR, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES IN THE WINE SECTOR. HE ALSO HOPES TO WRAP UP THE ISSUES LEADING TO THE CAP'S FOR SHEEPMEEAT, POTATOES AND ALCOHOL, AS WELL AS THE FISHERIES POLICY, AND TO COMPLETE EC/GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE.

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3. BOTSWANA BEEF. THE ONLY DECISION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL CONCERNED THE LIFTING OF THE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON BOTSWANA BEEF. OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE COMMUNITY HAS RESTRICTED IMPORTS OF FROZEN BEEF FROM BOTSWANA DUE TO AN OUTBREAK OF HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE. AS A RESULT OF AN EXPLORATORY VISIT BY A GROUP OF EC VETERINARIANS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT IMPORTS OF BOTSWANA BEEF MAY BE RESUMED, BUT ONLY FROM THE SOUTHERN REGION OF BOTSWANA AND FOR ENTRY ONLY INTO THE U.K. AND THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT OF REUNION.

4. IMPORT QUOTA OF YOUNG BOVINE ANIMALS FOR FATTENING. THE COUNCIL BRIEFLY DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE, BY 50,000 HEAD, THE COMMUNITY ANNUAL 200,000 HEAD IMPORT QUOTA OF YOUNG CATTLE FOR FATTENING. THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 25-26.

5. MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL ALLOCATING 230 MILLION U.A. OVER FIVE YEARS TO IMPROVE FORESTRY IN THE DRY MEDITERRANEAN

REGIONS. AGAIN, THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE SPECIAL AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY. DURING THE PRICE-FIXING MARATHON, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO REACH A DECISION ON THIS ISSUE BY SEPTEMBER 30. FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER MEHAIGNERIE INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT HIS APPROVAL OF THIS MATTER WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE DOSSIER ON STRUCTURAL MEASURES IN THE WINE SECTOR. SEVERAL MEMBER STATES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SHARE OF FEOGA FUNDS TO BE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT. WHILE ITALY WANTS THE COMMUNITY TO PAY 65 PERCENT OF THE COST, SOME MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY THE NETHERLANDS, FEEL THAT FEOGA CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 40 PERCENT. THE COUNCIL DID NOT DISCUSS THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY

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SERVICES IN ITALY, ONE OF THE SEVERAL UNRESOLVED MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES.

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/182 W

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R 261749Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8078  
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6. WINE. THE COUNCIL WAS GIVEN A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR STRUCTURAL MEASURES IN THE WINE SECTOR. THE COMMISSION AGAIN EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSAL TO THE COUNCIL BY AUGUST 1. AS REQUESTED BY FRANCE, THE COUNCIL WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE WORK ON THIS ISSUE, CONCURRENTLY WITH AN AGREEMENT ON THE FORESTRY PROPOSAL MENTIONED ABOVE.

7. DAIRY. THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED, BUT DID NOT AGREE ON, THE DISTRIBUTION OF 50 MILLION U.A. ALLOCATED FOR AN INTERNAL BUTTER DISPOSAL PROGRAM DURING 1978/79. THIS SUM, AGREED UPON DURING THE PRICE-FIXING MARATHON, WILL FINANCE DISPOSAL OF SECOND QUALITY BUTTER FROM INTERVENTION STOCKS AND POSSIBLY ANOTHER CHRISTMAS BUTTER SALE PROGRAM. IN TAKING NOTE OF THIS ISSUE AND A COMPLAINT REGISTERED BY DANISH MINISTER DALSAGER CONCERNING PRO-

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BLEMS OF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER, THE COMMISSION STATED THAT THESE TWO ISSUES WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE OVERALL DAIRY REPORT, WHICH IT HAS PROMISED TO SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL IN THE FALL, AND AGAIN IN A MORE SPECIFIC REPORT EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

8. AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN'S. UNDER OTHER BUSINESS, THE FRENCH MINISTER REGISTERED CONCERN OVER THE NEGOTIATION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN'S. EVEN THOUGH HE FAVORS COMPLETION OF THE MTN'S BY END OF YEAR HE STRESSED EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS DOES NOT RESULT IN DISTORTION OF CAP MECHANISMS, PARTICULARLY OPERATION OF EXPORT SUBSIDY PROGRAMS. MTN MATTER WAS ALSO DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS JULY 25 (REPORTED SEPTTEL). ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCE, COMMISSION ALSO PROMISED TO SUBMIT TO COUNCIL ASAP STATUS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT.

9. THE COUNCIL APPROVED AS "A POINTS" NUMEROUS REGULATIONS, DECISIONS, AND DIRECTIVES AFFECTING AGRICULTURE.

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## Message Attributes

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